

New York City; and Dr. W. G. Smillie, who organized cooperative work in Maryland before becoming Assistant Director of The School of Hygiene in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and later Professor of Public Health Administration at Harvard and later in the Cornell University Medical College. Among these doctors in training was a near poet, Dr. A. C. Pfeiffer from Michigan. He made clever rhymes about incidents connected with the campaign. One of the most appropriate concerned the task of getting rural home to sanitation. The closing stanza admirably summed up the problem of rural sanitation as follows:

Keep combing the landscape
with Dodge and with Ford,
Keep preaching to all the un-
grateful horde
Who pretend to heed what you
have to say —
But always tomorrow, never
today. *

The growing interest in improving sanitation, especially in rural districts, was shown by visits made to the Wilson County Training Center by health workers from other North Carolina counties and from other states. Several counties sent committees from their boards of health — among these being Nash, Lenoir, Vance, and Davidson. As a result of this increased interest in local health work, Dr. Rankin, the State Health Officer, was able to secure from the General Assembly of 1917 an appropriation of \$15,000 with which to assist county health departments. This \$15,000 was supplemented by funds from the International Health Board to provide for a Bureau of County Health Work through which the three year program under way in Wilson could be extended to ten counties.

Since all ten townships of Wilson County had been reached by April, 1917, steps were taken to organize an adequate county health

department which would maintain and further develop sanitary improvements in both the town and the county. At their June, 1917 meeting, the Wilson County and Town Boards of Commissioners made the appropriation for Wilson County to join the State plan. Dr. J. C. Braswell was selected as full-time health officer; he accepted and took up his duties the first of July.

The movement for public health work reached such a high level in 1917 that the General Assembly of that year passed a number of important measures that broadened the scope of the work of the State Board of Health. The most important were "to prevent and control the development of certain infectious diseases; to provide for the physical examination of the school children of the State at regular intervals; for the cooperative and effective development of rural sanitation; to prevent blindness in infancy; to provide for the sanitary inspection and conduct of hotels and restaurants; and to regulate the hygienic handling and work of prisoners." To carry out the provisions of these acts, the annual appropriation of the Board was increased to \$60,772.16; and the income of the State Laboratory of Hygiene amounted to \$21,587.22.

To put into effect the new provisions enacted by the General Assembly in 1917, it was necessary to make a number of changes in the staff of the State Board of Health. A Bureau of Epidemiology was created with Dr. A. McR. Crouch as Director; a Bureau of Medical Inspection of School Children was established and directed by Dr. G. M. Cooper. A Bureau of County Health Work with Dr. B. E. Washburn as Director replaced the Bureau of Rural Sanitation; and in December, 1917, a Bureau of Life Extension

* *Ibid.*, page 133.